

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

7 SEPTEMBER 2021

QUARTER 1 2021/22 PERFORMANCE REPORT

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update on the Children and Family Services Department's performance for the period April to June 2021 (Quarter 1).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Children and Family Services Department's performance is reported to the Committee in accordance with the Council's corporate performance management arrangements.

Background

3. A Strategic Plan 2018-2022 has been agreed by the Council setting out its priority outcomes for delivery and supporting performance metrics, and this was refreshed last year. The Children and Family Services Department has also produced a Departmental Plan 2020-2023 which identifies a number of other ambitions and measures to monitor progress. The following report and accompanying dashboard aim to report on the priority areas identified by both plans and monitor performance of key indicators on a quarterly basis. The current performance dashboard is attached as Appendix A and has been refreshed to concentrate on indicators where new data is available for Quarter 1.
4. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on school operations and examination processes, no new school inspection data or education outcome data is currently available. Members will be updated once data is released for this area.
5. Quartile positions are added where comparative national data is available. Comparative data is not available for all indicators.

Overview

6. From 24 measures that have been reported, three have improved, five show no significant change and five have declined. In addition to this, nine indicators provide information only with no polarity and two indicators have temporarily been suspended (see point 31).
7. From 14 measures that have a national benchmark, four are in the top quartile, six are in the second quartile, three are in the third quartile and one is in the fourth quartile.

Helping children in Leicestershire live in safe, stable environments and have secure attachments

8. Local Authority comparisons used are figures published by the government for end of year benchmarking.
9. The number of 'Child Protection cases reviewed within timescales' was 91.7% at the end quarter 1. This is a decrease compared to quarter 4 (94.7%) and places Leicestershire in the third quartile of all local authorities by published benchmarks.
10. The percentage of 'Children becoming subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time' increased to 27.3% in quarter 4 (39 children). This is a rise of 5% (14 children) since quarter 4. Leicestershire remains in the third quartile of local authorities.
11. The percentage of re-referrals to Social Care within 12 months was 19.7% in quarter 4 (236), a rise of 1.3% compared to quarter 4 but the same number of children. Leicestershire remains in the second quartile of local authorities.
12. The percentage of 'single assessments completed within 45 days' was 91.5%. This represents 887 assessments and is 1.8% lower than quarter 4. This would place Leicestershire in the second quartile nationally by available comparisons.
13. Five Child Protection plans lasting two years or more were open at the end of quarter 1, representing 1% of cases. This is the same number and proportion as the end of quarter 4. The current figure places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities and is lower than statistical neighbours using available comparators.
14. The 'percentage of children with three or more placements during the year' was 3.5% (24 children). This is very low by any standard and places Leicestershire in the top quartile nationally. The 'percentage of children in the same placement for 2+ years or placed for adoption' was 63.9% (161 children). This is 6.1% (20 children) lower than quarter 4 and would place Leicestershire in the fourth quartile by published benchmarks.
15. The percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation was 97.9% at the end of quarter 1. This is higher than quarter 4 and places Leicestershire in the top quartile of local authorities using available comparisons.
16. The percentage of Care Leavers in Education, Employment or Training was 64.6% at the end of quarter 1 (31 young people). This is higher than quarter 4

and places Leicestershire in the top quartile by comparison with other local authorities. The service provides careful oversight to the care leaver indicator and is driven by a corporate commitment for creating mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.

17. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had a dental check' was 35.1% (240 children). This is higher than quarter 4 (197 children). Routine dental treatment has been limited during the period of the Covid-19 lockdown and figures are now beginning to rise.
18. The percentage of 'Children in Care who have had an annual health assessment' within the last 12 months was 88.2% (603). This is 2.9% higher than quarter 4.
19. Completion of health assessments continues to be overseen by the Children in Care Head of Service and Service Manager, with specific actions identified to address delays and barriers including systems support, processes and staffing pressures. Both managers attend quarterly operational and strategic meetings with health partners to discuss and address the health needs of children in care and how best to meet these needs.

Helping children and their families build strength, resilience, confidence and capacity

20. During quarter 1, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFWS) worked with 4,162 individuals and 1,583 families across Leicestershire. This is higher than quarter 4 in both cases when the figures were 4,042 and 1,500 respectively.
21. The Children and Families Services Departmental plan states the intention to support more young people in mainstream Leicestershire schools by increasing the number of children effectively supported by Special Educational Needs Support (SEN Support) and decreasing the number of cases which subsequently require an Education and Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
22. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) was 2,244 in the Summer 2021 school census. This is 128 higher than the Spring 2021 census.
23. The number of children in mainstream schools in Leicestershire without an EHCP but in receipt of SEN Support was 11,371 in the Spring 2021 school census. This is 782 higher than the Spring 2021 census.

People are safe in their daily lives

24. Youth Offending statistics are usually reported one or two quarters in arrears. This is because data has to be produced and validated by legal bodies such as the Police and courts before being released to local authorities.
25. The Q4 2020/21 figure (latest available) for 'first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17' was 18. This is 8 fewer than the previously reported quarterly figure. Of this group, 7 were previously known to the Children and

Families service. The figures for the first-time entrants remain low compared to regional and national data.

26. The rate of re-offending per young offender for quarter 3 2020/21 (latest available) was 0.67 offences per offender. This is higher than the quarter 2 figure of 0.46.
27. No young people were sentenced to custody during quarter 4 2020/21 (latest available), this is two fewer than quarter 3. This figure is usually low, for example one or two.

Help every child to get the best possible start in life

Early years

28. The percentage of eligible two-year and three-year olds taking up the Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) is reported termly and latest figures include the 2021 summer term.
29. During the spring term, the percentage of eligible 3 year olds taking up their FEEE place was 93.5% (6,825) an almost identical figure to the previous quarter (93.6%). The percentage of eligible 2 year olds was 68.5% (1,125), a rise of 4.9% following a fall in the previous quarter. Eligibility for 2 year olds is more targeted towards disadvantaged families, hence the smaller number of children.
30. The figures for the past year have been heavily affected by the Covid-19 disruption which has meant that newly eligible children were unable to begin their placement and some parents preferred to keep their children at home. However, recent figures are now approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Help every child to have access to good quality education to ensure they achieve their maximum potential

31. No routine full school inspections took place during this period. Routine graded full school inspections are expected to resume in Autumn 2021 after being suspended since the beginning of the first COVID-19 lockdown, mid-March 2020.
32. The number of children Electively Home Educated (EHE) was 839 at the end of quarter 1. The quarter 4 figure has been revised downwards since it was reported, and the new quarter 1 figure is higher than the refreshed figure (708) but lower than the originally reported quarter 4 figure of 867. This figure counts children whose parents have chosen to educate their child at home and has risen significantly in the past year with the number at the end of quarter 1 2019/20 standing at 465. The trend has been driven by two factors during this period: firstly, having experienced a period of enforced home schooling, some parents have opted for EHE as a lifestyle choice and have chosen to continue this even when schools reopened. The second factor has been ongoing health concerns which could be for the child, vulnerable parents or general safety concerns. The numbers will continue to be monitored closely.
33. Latest NEET data (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training), is for the end of May 2021 and shows a Leicestershire figure of 3% representing

420 young people. This is an increase of 73 young people compared to quarter 4. Although this is a significant rise, this reflects a wider rise in NEET figures. The statistical neighbour average has risen from 2.6% to 3.7% in the same period.

Conclusion

34. The report provides a summary of performance at the end of quarter 1 of 2021/22, covering the period April to June 2021.

35. Details of all metrics will continue to be monitored on a regular basis throughout the year and any subsequent changes will be notified in future reports.

Background Papers

None

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

36. None

Officer to Contact

Jane Moore, Director – Children and Families Service

Tel: 0116 305 2649

Email: Jane.Moore@leics.gov.uk

Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director – Children’s Social Care

Tel: 0116 305 5479

Email: Sharon.Cooke@leics.gov.uk

Emma Jones, Business Partner – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 7526

Email: Emma.j.Jones@leics.gov.uk

Alex Lea – Business Partner – Business Intelligence Service

Tel: 0116 305 6803

Email: Alex.Lea@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Children and Family Services Department Performance Dashboard for Quarter 1, 2021/22

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

37. Addressing equalities issues is supported by this report, with a focus on vulnerable groups within Leicestershire, including children in care. Education data relating to performance for different context groups including children with Special Educational Needs and Free School Meals is reported when data becomes available.

This page is intentionally left blank